

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON NEW REGULATIONS

Preschools (391 NAC Chapter 5)

General Questions

1. How will Licensees/Directors get answers to their questions?

Anyone involved in the operation of a School-Age-Only Center can call or e-mail any staff in the Child Care Licensing Program with a question about regulations. A “Questions and Answers” for each type of license is on the Child Care Licensing Web Page (http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/crl_childcare_childcareindex.aspx) and updated with new questions from time to time.

Information about the “Questions and Answers” will be shared with the Early Childhood Professional Development Coordinators for inclusion in their newsletters.

The Child Care Licensing Program will also establish an on-line method for licensees/directors to ask additional questions.

2. How will Licensees/Directors know when new forms are available?

When the “Questions and Answers” are posted on the Child Care Licensing Web Site, we will make sure all new forms are also posted.

3. How will Preschool licensees and directors receive training on the new Regulations?

The Child Care Licensing Web Page will contain the following resources for licensees and directors to know and understand the new regulations:

- Video presentation describing all the changes to the Preschool Regulations (approximately 60 minutes in length)
- Handouts prepared specifically for Preschools that address:
 - a) Written Policies, Procedures, and Descriptions
 - b) Required Background Checks
 - c) Frequently Asked Questions About New Training Requirements
 - d) “Reportable” Communicable Diseases
- Questions and Answers on New Regulations

Parent Information Brochures (5-006.12, page 29)

1. When Parent Information Brochures are printed, how will they be distributed to Preschools? When Preschools get copies of the brochure, should they provide to all parents and get receipts?

Parent Brochures are being sent to all licensed programs from Central Office in Lincoln. Each currently licensed program will get three (3) times their license capacity of brochures. Newly licensed programs will receive three times their license capacity of brochures with their Provisional License.

Preschools then need to distribute the Brochures to parents of children who are enrolled and retain the receipt with the name and date the parent received the brochure in the child(ren)’s file. One brochure is required for each family of children that are enrolled in the Preschool.

2. Can a Preschool substitute their own “parent handbook” or other written description, if all the elements in the Department’s Parent Information Brochure are included?

Yes, a Preschool can substitute their own document as long as all the elements in the Department’s parent Information Brochure are included.

3. Are Parent Information Brochures available in any language other than English?

At this time, Parent Information Brochures are only available in English.

Transportation Training (5-006.09B, page 26)

1. Would a contracted transportation service driver need the transportation training in 4-006.09C?

Yes, unless the driver received comparable training as a requirement of a Commercial Driver's License.

Transportation (5-006.23, page 36)

1. The vehicle used to transport children must be properly registered and insured, and must contain a first aid kit and parent contact information for each child being transported. Does this mean that the first aid kit and parent info must also be in a bus which is contracted to provide transportation for the school-age only center?

Yes, all transportation regulations must be followed whether the Preschool provides transportation services directly or contracts with a transportation company.

2. Children must not be transported to any location without the prior knowledge of the parents....(THIS MEANS THEY NEED WRITTEN APPROVAL FOR EACH FIELD TRIP, NOT JUST A BLANKET PERMISSION TO GO ON FIELD TRIPS, YES?)

Preschools may use a general permission for transportation as long as parents know where their children are at all times.

3. If a Preschool rents/uses a bus or a school bus for field trips for preschool age children - is this allowed? The bus or school bus does not have seat belts.

When transporting children younger than school-age, the answer depends on the size of the bus.

- Preschools cannot use buses that are under 10,000 lbs. to transport children under school age without having safety/booster seats and appropriate restraints.
- Preschools can use buses that are over 10,000 lbs. to transport children of any age without having safety/booster seats or restraints.

Preschools that elect to transport children in buses over 10,000 lbs. without safety/booster seats and restraints are encouraged to consult with their insurance carrier to insure coverage for transportation services.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

1. Information on the liability insurance that will be required in the future should be posted on the Department's Children's Services Licensing website for providers to access.

Here is the link to the final language of the legislation - LB 105 – that will require licensed child care programs to obtain and maintain liability insurance on their child care program:

<http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/Current/PDF/Slip/LB105.pdf>

- The requirement goes into effect for applicants for a child care license on July 1, 2014.
- The requirement goes into effect for programs that are already licensed July 31, 2014.

If you have additional questions or want clarification on a question and answer in this document, please send an e-mail to Pat Urzedowski at this link: pat.urzedowski@nebraska.gov